

Initiative Name:

Developing and implementing a comprehensive solid waste management framework, including legislative and funding components

Initiative Description:

This initiative will encourage the efficient and economical reuse and recycling of waste, ensure Michigan responsibly disposes of its own waste, ensure that disposal in Michigan is done safely, and as a result of the foregoing anticipated accomplishments, ensure that inappropriate incentives for waste importation are not being provided.

Legislation codifying and expanding existing disposal prohibitions will help ensure hazardous materials are not disposed of in Michigan landfills and encourage recycling and appropriate use of scarce resources. The DEQ inspection authority will be clarified and expanded. Penalties for violation of solid waste laws will be increased. And the DEQ Director will be given new authority to prevent the transportation of solid waste that poses the risk of spreading infectious materials that could harm human health and the environment. Legislation will require that a person bringing solid waste into Michigan for disposal demonstrate that the waste meets Michigan disposal standards. Michigan citizens will be given new information on material prohibited from disposal and ways of appropriately managing those materials. In order to prevent the continued creation of excess disposal capacity, a moratorium will be placed on the construction of new landfills for two years. During those two years, the DEQ will develop, in consultation with interested parties, recommendations to the Legislature on how to improve Michigan's solid waste planning program to encourage siting of appropriate amounts of disposal capacity and the management of solid waste on a regional basis. Finally, steps will be taken to further encourage recycling and wise use of resources. Legislation will impose a surcharge on solid waste disposed of in Michigan with proceeds to be used to fund local recycling programs. And water bottles will be added to the Michigan beverage container deposit program.

Expected Outcomes:*Administration Goals Attained:*

- Develop Comprehensive Solid Waste Strategy
- Boost Recycling

Other Benefits and Outcomes:

- Require those who use our landfills to abide by our rules
- Federal law doesn't allow us to ban this trade in Canadian and out-of-state trash, but we do have the right to insist that trash dumped in our landfills meets our standards
- Develop and implement a comprehensive solid waste strategy for Michigan that supports efficient and economical source reduction, reuse and recycling and ensures that Michigan disposes of the solid waste it generates in a safe, environmentally sound manner.

Progress to date:

- An eleven bill package addressing waste importation has passed and was signed by Governor Granholm on March 25, 2004.
- A plan to implement the legislative amendments has been developed and is being conducted.
- The first meeting of Green Glass and Planning Work groups occurred in June 2004 with meetings/activities scheduled to complete processes as called for in the legislation.
- A meeting with the regulated community was held on June 22, 2004, to discuss development of guidance documents on implementation of disposal prohibitions.
- \$2.6 million in grants have been awarded to assist in statewide tire clean-up